

City of Lawton, Oklahoma
Proclamation

Whereas, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples. The contributions of Native Americans have been enhanced freedom, prosperity, and greatness of America today. Their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States; and

Whereas, Native Americans are inextricably linked with the history of the United States. Beginning with the Pilgrims' arrival at Plymouth Colony and continuing until the present day, Native American's contributions are woven deeply into our Nation's rich tapestry. During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate the first Americans and recognize their contributions and sacrifices; and

Whereas, Native Americans have influenced every stage of America's development. They helped early European settlers survive and thrive in a new land. They contributed democratic ideas to our constitutional Framers. And, for more than 200 years, they have bravely answered the call to defend our Nation, serving with distinction in every branch of the United States Armed Forces. The Nation is grateful for the service and sacrifice of all Native Americans; and

Whereas, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

Whereas, 2020 Census Bureau data estimates that the Native American population grew to 7.1 million people identifying as Native American; and

Whereas, Native Americans are a testament to the deep importance of culture and vibrancy of traditions, passed down throughout generations. Native American men and women contribute to all areas of life in Lawton, Oklahoma, including, but not limited to, government, business, arts and sciences, medicine, education, law enforcement, and the military.

Now, Therefore, I, Stan Booker, Mayor, City of Lawton, Oklahoma, do hereby recognize November 2021 as

National American Indian Heritage Month

and encourage all citizens to learn about the rich history and culture of the Native American people. I ask that you commemorate this month with appropriate programs, activities, and celebrations.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, to be affixed hereto this 9th day of November 2021.



Stan Booker, Mayor